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**COVID-19 update**

**23 March 2020**

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**Letter to patients with the highest risk**

The CMO and NHSE/I has written to all of the highest risk patients of severe morbidity and mortality from COVID-19. Further details can be found in a letter published for GPs here: <https://england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/guidance-and-updates-for-gps-at-risk-patients/>. Annex 3, the patient letter itself, is attached for your info. It is being coordinated and sent to individuals via a national distribution system.

**COVID-19 update from YORLMC**

YORLMC is responding to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation by putting measures in place to support General Practice and the wider healthcare system. It is aware that as new guidance emerges, and existing guidance evolves you will have concerns and unanswered questions; YORLMC is working on a daily basis with key partners to obtain clarity. This includes working together to try and avoid duplication as we are very mindful of how many communications practices are currently receiving.

Where practices have concerns or questions in normal LMC hours (9am-5pm Monday-Friday) you are encouraged to contact [ariana.frankis@yorlmcltd.co.uk](mailto:ariana.frankis@yorlmcltd.co.uk). A cascade system is in place enabling each Executive Officer to then escalate to the appropriate YORLMC Officer

For urgent queries out of hours **please text** Dr Brian McGregor, YORLMC Medical Secretary/COVID-19 Lead on 07508 015667.

**Primary care revenue costs**

The latest guidance states that NHSE/I will reimburse any additional revenue costs as part of the wider finance agreement on Covid-19. Any additional costs related to Covid-19 should be charged to the CCG. A reconciliation of these costs will be undertaken in due course.

Current guidance defines valid additional revenue costs as being genuine, reasonable additional marginal costs. Such costs could include:

* Evidence of increases in staffing costs
* Increases in temporary staff cover due to sickness absence/caring responsibilities
* Payments to bank staff and sub-contractor staff to cover sickness /caring responsibilities
* Costs of COVID activity
* Equipment needed including PPE and hand sanitiser
* Decontamination and transport
* Minor works if they can be delivered during the outbreak period. Capital purchases are to be relayed to the regional NHSE/I team for assessment with the national team.

The CCG is required to complete a template of costs on a regular basis and submit to NHS England and practices are asked to help in this regard. Costs of capital, e.g. IT and telephony, major building works, etc. are reimbursed through a different route and the NHSE/I regional team, and co-ordinated through the CCG. All practices have been contacted about this separately. All expenditure incurred in line with this guidance needs to be notified to the CCG Finance team so that costs can be logged and monitored.  Please email [voyccg.finance@nhs.net](mailto:voyccg.finance@nhs.net) with details of any Covid-19 expenditure incurred.

**COVID-19 testing**

Currently only patients who meet the criteria for admission are being tested.  There has been no update on healthcare workers or community testing other than to say that it is being developed.  <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/next-steps-on-nhs-response-to-covid-19-letter-from-simon-stevens-and-amanda-pritchard/> (paragraph 3b)

**Managing patients who meet the criteria for suspected covid-19**

Patients should be directed to 111online (or 111 telephone if no internet access) in the first instance.  However, patients who meet the criteria for suspected covid-19 will inevitably end up in primary care either directly, or through 111 primary care disposition.  These patients will need to be assessed remotely in the first instance (telephone or video).  There are three resultant scenarios:

If the patient is well enough to self-manage they should be directed to advice on self-isolation if not already and advised to call 111 if there worsening symptoms.

If patients are so unwell from the remote triage that hospital assessment is needed, then they should be referred to the acute hospital highlighting that the patient is ‘suspected covid-19’: York Hospital ED 01723 342 145 awaiting further confirmation of dedicated line.

If safe for patient’s own transport, it is OK for friends or relatives to take them if they have already been in close contact with the patient.  Public transport should not be used.  If an ambulance is needed, YAS control should be advised that the patient is suspected covid-19.

If patients don’t fit the scenarios above, then the patient will need to be assessed.  Options will depend on facilities available in the practice and practice specific pathways:

a.         Assess in the patients car

b.         Assess in ‘hot’ rooms

c.         Assess in ‘hot’ sites

d.         Home visit

All options involve ensuring effective PPE, using equipment specific to hot cases and decontamination.

**Obtaining PPE**

Updated guidance and contact routes for obtaining PPE is at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/updates-and-guidance-on-ppe-20-march-2020.pdf>. **Please ensure you only use PPE if you are within a metre of a patient with possible or confirmed COVID-19. Do not use PPE if this is not the case.  We need to protect our supplies**.

**PPE** **requirements for those with suspected Covid-19**

**Requirements**

* Fluid resistant surgical mask
* Gloves
* Apron
* Putting on and removing PPE for **non-aerosol** generating procedures (Fluid resistant surgical mask and apron): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-use-for-non-aerosol-generating-procedures>.
* Putting on and removing PPE for **aerosol** generating procedures (FFP3 and gown): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-use-for-aerosol-generating-procedures>
* All other IPC guidance: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874312/PHE_11606_Putting_on_PPE_02b.pdf>

and <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874313/PHE_11606_Taking_off_PPE_02b.pdf> and <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874310/PHE_11606_When_to_use_face_mask_or_FFP3_02.pdf>.

The use of ‘drive thru’ assessments may also be considered for patients where a face to face but not necessarily ‘hands on’ assessment may be required. **Please note – Do not use Ready to Use Milton products – they are not concentrated enough** - use the concentrate in line with the dilution guidance for  1,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm av cl).  Or use a combined detergent/chlorine releasing solution with a concentration of 1,000 ppm av cl. Further stocks from the pandemic stockpile have been made available to the following primary care wholesalers. For any issues with orders or chain due to wholesaler failure to deliver or availability, please contact the following:

* National Supply Disruption Response (NSDR) unit on:
* Freephone number in the UK: 0800 915 9964
* Direct line: 0044 (0) 191 283 6543
* Email: [supplydisruptionservice@nhsbsa.nhs.uk](mailto:supplydisruptionservice@nhsbsa.nhs.uk)
* Hours of operation: Mon – Fri, 8am – 6pm

**Contraception advice**

Thank you to Dr Paula Evans for this helpful update.

The rules around contraception have been relaxed so fewer women need to go to surgeries.

Nexplanon now has a four year duration. Mirena now has a six year duration. Issue POP for extra contraceptive cover if required. There is now permission to authorise up to 12 months of oral contraceptives if the woman has had her BP and BMI checked in the past 12 months.

**Media queries**

All media enquiries are being managed by the CCG’s communications team and by NHS England. If you receive a query directly please contact [voyccg.communications@nhs.net](mailto:voyccg.communications@nhs.net) or phone 01904 555 919.

**Useful resources**

* The CCG publishes public facing information on its website and social media channels.  The web link is <https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-information/>
* The link to the CCG’s clinical updates is available on RSS at <https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/rss/home/infections-and-microbiology/covid-19/>
* NHS England’s latest bulletin summarises many national resources. Go to <https://www.england.nhs.uk/email-bulletins/general-practice-bulletin/>
* The dedicated NHS England and NHS Improvement COVID-19 web page is <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care>.
* The RCGP website has links to useful resources: <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/policy/rcgp-policy-areas/covid-19-coronavirus.aspx>
* GP Rammya Mathew in Islington shares a suite of resources at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19nzcxWxCXD2DBFVsG3JiwJHskP1oLRWa> Thank you Dr Paula Evans!
* National Autistic Society – guidance and helpline for parents’, young people and staff: [https://www.autism.org.uk/services/nas-schools/vanguard/news/2020/march/coronavirus-(covid-19)-advice.aspx](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.autism.org.uk%2Fservices%2Fnas-schools%2Fvanguard%2Fnews%2F2020%2Fmarch%2Fcoronavirus-(covid-19)-advice.aspx&data=02%7C01%7CAAllard%40ncb.org.uk%7C7d078078e21d4611dba808d7cb45bcbd%7Cadc87355e29c4519954f95e35c776178%7C0%7C0%7C637201372684920098&sdata=X0p0IpfwmQXowcaQVRflamskU%2FNmdKpAYqUIn6RYxjI%3D&reserved=0)
* Mencap - Easy Read guide to Coronavirus: [https://www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/Information%20about%20Coronavirus%20ER%20SS2.pdf](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mencap.org.uk%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2020-03%2FInformation%2520about%2520Coronavirus%2520ER%2520SS2.pdf&data=02%7C01%7CAAllard%40ncb.org.uk%7C7d078078e21d4611dba808d7cb45bcbd%7Cadc87355e29c4519954f95e35c776178%7C0%7C0%7C637201372684920098&sdata=S5Q3Tzb8p6P6AOsa%2BeDPP8PQceazwG2xEK6T65DQ%2Fng%3D&reserved=0)
* Young Minds - Talking to your child about Coronavirus and 10 tips from their Parents Helpline to support family wellbeing: [https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoungminds.org.uk%2Fblog%2Ftalking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus%2F&data=02%7C01%7CAAllard%40ncb.org.uk%7C7d078078e21d4611dba808d7cb45bcbd%7Cadc87355e29c4519954f95e35c776178%7C0%7C0%7C637201372684930090&sdata=hCT6wVcFSacio7qNOvk6eX8YRRm0uKSOa4QvPTitEMg%3D&reserved=0)
* Carers UK - Guidance for carers: [https://www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/health/looking-after-your-health/coronavirus-covid-19](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.carersuk.org%2Fhelp-and-advice%2Fhealth%2Flooking-after-your-health%2Fcoronavirus-covid-19&data=02%7C01%7CAAllard%40ncb.org.uk%7C7d078078e21d4611dba808d7cb45bcbd%7Cadc87355e29c4519954f95e35c776178%7C0%7C0%7C637201372684940084&sdata=RPeTq3k0bpsI1zGIjDqchzAvM%2F7CO2FZ16o%2BrlK4Kns%3D&reserved=0)
* Covibook – an interactive resource designed to support and reassure children aged 7 and under, designed to help children explain and draw the emotions that they might be experiencing during the pandemic: [https://www.mindheart.co/descargables](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mindheart.co%2Fdescargables&data=02%7C01%7CAAllard%40ncb.org.uk%7C7d078078e21d4611dba808d7cb45bcbd%7Cadc87355e29c4519954f95e35c776178%7C0%7C0%7C637201372684940084&sdata=H2glY%2Bfie1Tk3b6lnXcKEmKtZs%2Bf%2BCSQIydH2LaaCgI%3D&reserved=0)

Thank you

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**My emails are written in Arial, point 12 font and in black. Where possible I use plain English. I also work flexibly and send emails out of hours – either early in the morning or late at night. Unless an urgent response is specified please reply at a time that suits you.**

